

These developments will be possible because of the opening of trade barriers in free trade zones and the general growth in global trade. Unforeseen factors which may considerably enhance these trends include the possible opening up of China after their 1997 takeover of Hong Kong, and the potential effect of renewed economic growth of former members of the USSR.

Another factor to consider is the continuing growth of tourism, particularly tourist travel to more widespread "exotic" locations around the world, such as Thailand, India, or Africa. Improvement to aircraft costs and flying speeds and distances can be expected to continue during the 90's, particularly considering how the Canadian (and Western) demographic profile will change; the population will increasingly be comprised of older individuals with more leisure time and money for travel.

As business and tourism becomes more globalized, more Canadians will have need to travel to foreign countries. Present growth in passports issued averages 6.5% per year - this is significantly faster than the population growth rate of approximately 1% per year for the same period², and appears to be fuelled even now by both business and personal travel. Although fluctuations can be expected with economic cycles, there is no reason to believe that growth in passports issued will not continue at least at the current rate or even expand further for the foreseeable future.

4.2 Increased Focus on International Travel Security.

With increased travel by people from all countries and growing problems with illegal immigrants around the world, the need for Canadians to rely on their passport as a credible and accepted travel document will become increasingly important. Should incidents of international terrorism and crime continue or rise, there will be increased demand for fraudulent Canadian passports and increased scrutiny of passport holders by immigration officials. In fact, the impact of drug trafficking around the world may result in an agreement among many countries to impose new standards on minimum travel document requirements and verification safeguards for international travellers.

² Calculated from *Quarterly Demographic Statistics*, January - March 1991, Statistics Canada